

Appln No. 10/010,728
Amdt date February 24, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 24, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pursuant to the Office action of September 24, 2003, claims 16-18, 24-27 and 37-39 have been withdrawn from consideration in response to an election of species. Applicant hereby affirms the election made without traverse to prosecute Group I (claims 1-15, 19-23 and 28-36).

As set forth in the Office action, claims 1-15, 19-23, 28-36, 40 and 41 were examined. Of these claims, claims 8, 11, 12, 21-23, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 34-36 were objected to, but the Office action indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, the remainder of the claims examined were rejected under Section 102 and/or Section 103 as anticipated and/or unpatentable over the cited references.

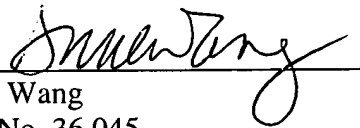
Applicant has hereinabove cancelled claims 2-4, 6-11, 13-15, 19, 20, 30, 33, 40 and 41, and amended claims 1, 5, 12, 21-23, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34-36. Accordingly, claims 1, 5, 12, 21-23, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34-36 are now pending. In particular, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 11. Claim 5 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claims 6 and 8. Claim 12 has been rewritten to depend from claim 1 which as amended includes the limitations of claim 11. Claim 21 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 5. Claim 28 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 6. Claim 31 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 6. Claim 32 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 13. In addition to amending the foregoing claims to meet the condition for allowance, Applicant has also corrected minor inadvertent typographical errors which did not change the scope of the claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 5, 12, 21-23, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 34-36 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests a timely indication of allowance. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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